

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 885

By Yager

A RESOLUTION recognizing Flo Charles of Roane County.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those citizens of this State who have dedicated their lives to serving others, especially those who have opened their homes to children in need; and

WHEREAS, Flo Charles stands as an inspirational figure in her community and this State and is wholly worthy of recognition by this body; and

WHEREAS, over the past forty years, Mrs. Charles and her late husband, Clarence Charles, who had four biological children of their own, adopted four children and fostered an estimated 150 more children, turning their farmstead into a safe haven for so many in need. Her 137-acre farm in Roane County encompasses pasture, hay fields, woodland, and garden and currently has forty head of cattle, two donkeys, and three dogs; and

WHEREAS, Flo Charles knew from a young age that she wanted to provide a foster home for those in need; it was a desire brought about by the six years she spent in foster care as a child and the knowledge that she wanted to do the same for other children someday; and

WHEREAS, recently, a number of the children adopted and fostered by Mrs. Charles returned to the family farm to offer their assistance. Lead by Danny Noe, the first of the Charleses' foster children, the work crews renovated the kitchen and dining room of the home in which they had lived as children, replacing the flooring, cabinets, countertops, and sink. The group also built a bridge over the creek separating the house and family cemetery and devised a rotation for attending to the farms' many chores; and

WHEREAS, the positive impact that Flo Charles has made upon the lives of scores of children is a testament to her deep and abiding belief that all children need a loving home, and her incredible efforts are wholly deserving of the recognition of this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and applaud the efforts of Flo Charles in committing herself to opening her home to hundreds of children over the past four decades, extending our deepest appreciation for her tireless efforts in supporting the ideals of foster care and adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.